



HMAR Waves

Hawaii Marine Animal Response Newsletter

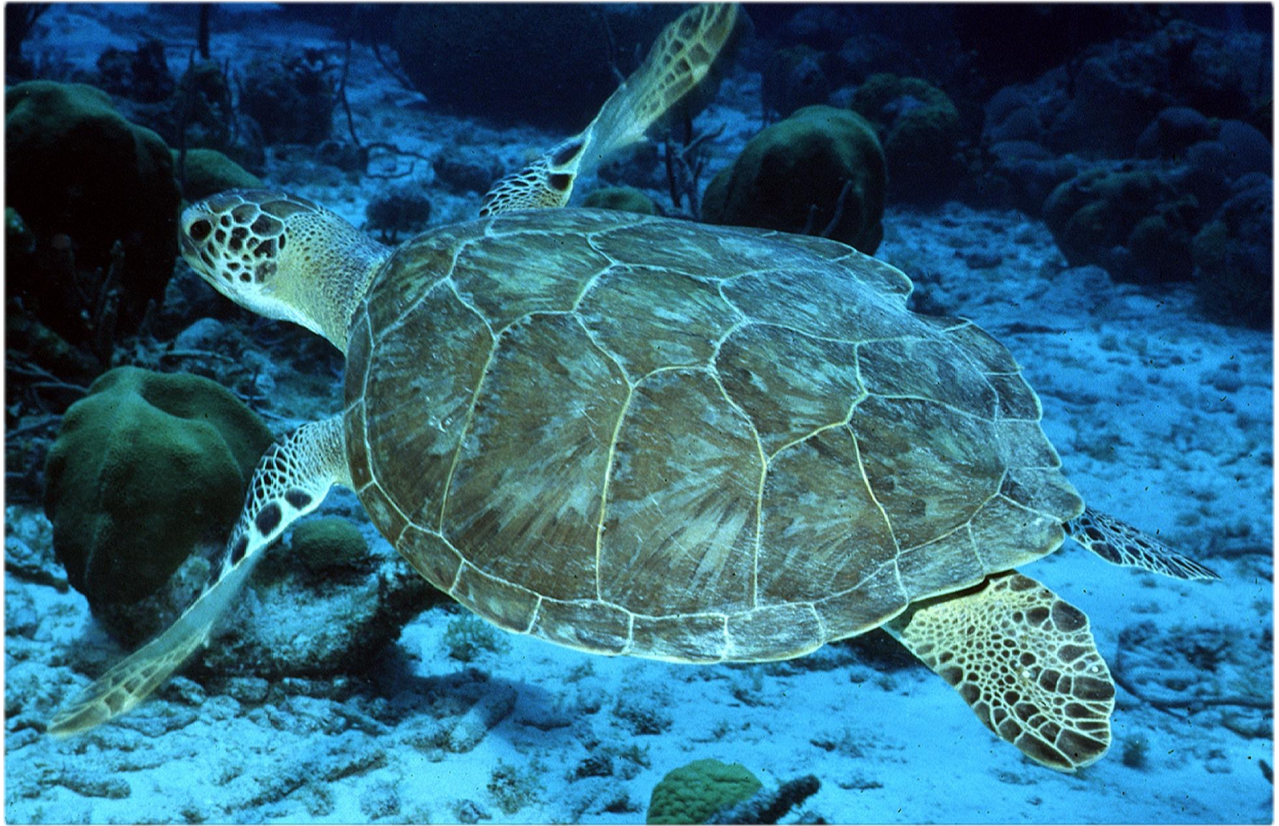


Photo by Andy Bruckner, NOAA

If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to the man. All things are connected.

—Chief Seattle (1786-1866)
Suwamish Chief

Organization's new name reflects expanded mission

Hawaii Marine Mammal Alliance is now Hawaii Marine Animal Response (HMAR). We have restructured in order to support other species in addition to marine mammals. Specifically, we have added sea turtles to our response and support programs. In a new three-year grant from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), we are now responsible for sea turtle response and outreach on Oahu. We respond to reports of stranded sea turtles and help save them from injury and death

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New name, continued

due to fishing line hooking, entanglement and other threats.

During this response work we also educate the public about sea turtles and how to responsibly and respectfully view them. All sea turtles in Hawaii are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Our duties under the grant are vital for the conservation and management of these species.

As Hawaii's largest nonprofit marine species response organization, we continue to provide preservation and recovery support for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal as well as other species. We cover about 300 miles of coastline on the islands of Oahu and Molokai with our team of over 100 volunteers, interns and staff.

Our web and Facebook pages now reflect our new name, responsibilities and expanded mission. Please visit us at www.h-mar.org.

HMAR is always looking for volunteers to help with field response, education, outreach and more. Go to h-mar.org for information and to sign up!



Hawaiian monk seal "Rocky" and her baby "Kaimana" (left) near the end of their 60-day stay in Waikiki. Photo by Ella Barsky

Oahu welcomed four new monk seal pups this summer

Four Hawaiian monk seals were born on Oahu this May, June and July, including the now famous pup "Kaimana." Named for the popular Waikiki beach where she was born, the young seal and her mother, "Rocky," became a tourist draw and Internet sensation. Thousands of tourists and residents enjoyed watching the pup and learning more about these endangered seals found only in Hawaii.

Three other seals were born on less high-profile beaches around the island. All pups and mothers appear to be doing well.

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Another of Oahu's newest monk seals, pup PO4, rests next to its mother, "Ua Malie." Photo by Kathleen O'Connell



Pup PO4 and his mother, "Ua Malie." Photo by Kathleen O'Connell

New pups, continued

HMAR staff and volunteers took shifts from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day to keep an eye on the mothers and pups. The "Kaimana" watch was particularly challenging due to the crowds and a nearby hazard, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium. "Kaimana" had to be rescued after swimming into the historic and hazardous Natatorium and was safely returned to her mother.

HMAR President Jon Gelman says the nonprofit's response to this pupping event on a busy Waikiki beach was a test of the organization's resources and commitment. "Our folks have multiple roles as we help seals have a safe, quiet place to rest and care for their pups. I think our volunteers and staff have done a great job and we have had the opportunity to educate thousands of residents and visitors while at the same time managing safety perimeters, monitoring the mom and pup's behaviors and maintaining appropriate separation between the seals and humans in an extremely challenging environment," he said.

Monk seal facts & stats

- Hawaiian monk seals have been observed swimming at nearly 1,800 feet deep, though their normal range of activity is less than about 300 feet.
- They can stay under water for up to 20 minutes and divers report seeing them napping under water.
- Adult monk seals are 6 to 7 feet long and can weigh between 350 and 500 pounds.



Support the work of
HMAR by going
to h-mar.org
and clicking on
"Donate Now."

Support our latest Hawaii Marine Stewards Program graduates

In partnership with Hawaii Tourism Authority, we're pleased to announce completion of our Hawaii Marine Stewards Program training by four of Oahu's forward-thinking tourism industry operators: Oahu Photography Tours, Dolphin Quest Oahu, Twogood Kayaks and Kailua Beach Adventures. They've joined our growing list of Oahu operators who have taken advantage of this free educational program. Their participation shows the public they're committed to the preservation of Hawaii's protected marine species and that they value employee training, customer education and continual business improvement. For more information about the program, go to h-mar.org.

To report a sighting of a monk seal or an injured or stranded seal, turtle, dolphin or whale, please go to h-mar.org and click on "Report a Sighting."

Contact Information

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Benny



Holokai (Sea Farer)



Honey Girl

Six ways you can help

Hawaii Marine Animal Response counts on the generous support of people like you. Get involved and make a difference today!

1. Donate

You can make a one-time or recurring tax-deductible donation at h-mar.org. Donations help us...

- Offset the costs of equipment, staff expenses, gasoline, tools, online systems and more.
- Produce the materials and purchase equipment used in education and outreach.
- Create a revenue base to pursue matching funds from government agencies and private foundations.
- Develop fundraising campaigns and special awareness events.

2. Adopt a monk seal

For a recurring donation of \$150 a year, you get an HMAR "You Can Help Save A Species" T-shirt, photos of your adopted Hawaiian monk seal to use on your computer desktop or phone, plus the satisfaction of helping one of our popular seals (three of which are pictured at left).

3. Join as a member

Choose one of three annual memberships from \$50 to \$300. At each level you receive thank-you gifts.

4. Volunteer some time

Our volunteers are at the core of our work, assisting with field response, dispatch, education, outreach, fundraising and corporate partnership. Sign up today at h-mar.org!

5. Become a corporate sponsor or partner

Whether it's with matching donations, a grant, sponsorship or a contribution of supplies or equipment, your company can help in our cause and get public recognition. Please email info@h-mar.org.

6. Shop

HMAR has been accepted by Amazon into its AmazonSmile program. This means Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to our nonprofit at no cost to you. So, next time you want to shop at Amazon, please go to smile.amazon.com instead to purchase the same items using your same amazon.com account. All of Amazon's products are eligible and the price you pay for products is the same. When you log in you will be asked which nonprofit you want to help. Type in **Hawaii Marine Mammal**

Alliance where prompted.
Mahalo!



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